

Application No. 09/819,380
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE TITLE

The title has been amended to more clearly indicate the nature of the invention to which the claims are directed, as required by the Examiner.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the first server comprises a transmitting section for sending transmitting instruction information, and whereby the first server transmits the transmitting instruction information to the second server via the transmitting section to request the second server to transmit the print-order information. Similarly, independent claim 10 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the server transmits print-order information in response to transmitting instruction information from another (laboratory) server. See the disclosure in the specification at page 31, lines 10-21.

In addition, claims 1-4 and 6-13 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor

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antecedent basis problems so as to put the claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1-4 and 6-13 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,674,923 ("Shih et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 1 (and corresponding independent claims 7 and 10 which recite the features of the first and second servers of claim 1, respectively), a network system including a first (laboratory) server and a second (central server) is provided in which print-order information is transmitted to the second server from a customer terminal. The second server stores the received print-order information in an information-storing section without transmitting the received print-order information to the first server. The first server can then transmit, via a transmitting section, transmitting instruction information to the second server to request the second server to transmit the print-order information stored in the information-storing section to the

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first server. The first server then conducts a printing process based on the print-order information received from the second server.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 (and corresponding independent claims 7 and 10), the first server transmits instructions to the second server to request print-order information, and the print-order information is used to conduct a printing process.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Shih et al merely discloses a photofinisher 62 at which photo processing operations are performed. According to the teachings of Shih et al, a user can instruct the photofinisher 62 to transmit digital versions of images to the server 90 so that the digital images are accessible by the user and/or third parties via the internet. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Shih et al clearly does not disclose that the photofinisher 62 transmits instructions to the server 90 to request print-order information to perform a printing process, in the manner of the claimed present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 7 and 10, and claims 2-6, 8, 9 and 11-13 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Shih et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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RE: CERTIFIED COPY OF THE PRIORITY DOCUMENT

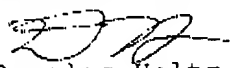
On the Office Action Summary sheet, the Examiner checked box 12c to indicate that a certified copy of the priority document was not received by the USPTO. However, a certified copy of the priority document was filed with the original application papers, as evidenced by the copy of the first page of the certified priority document attached hereto, which was printed out from the Image File Wrapper of the present application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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